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ADVERTISER

SUSTAINING NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR

PROGRAM TITLE

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #483

CHICAGO OUTLET

11:30 - 12:15 P.M. C.W.T. (

TIME

APRIL 24, 1942 (

DATE

FRIDAY

DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

MARY

JERRY

JAKE

JIM

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] (C)
RE: [REDACTED] (C)

100-100000
100-100000
100-100000
100-100000

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

2. MUSIC: THEME

3. ANNOUNCER: These days we hear a great deal about the menace of
4. forest fires. There's plenty of reason for all this
5. talk of forest fire danger because the prevention and
6. control of fires in the woods and forests of America bear
7. directly on the defense of America. We can't afford to
8. have a single logging operation close down because of
9. fire...we can't afford damage to old growth and second
10. growth timber when vast amounts of commercial timber are
11. so urgently required for war needs...we can't afford the
12. smoke from forest fires as a guide and a screen for enemy
13. planes...we just can't afford forest fires.....

14. Now to the Pine Cone National Forest. Assistant Ranger
15. Jerry Quick seems to be having his difficulties in
16. handling the Pine Cone District in the absence of Ranger
17. Jim Robbins who's away on a special war-time assignment.
18. Right now Jerry's showing some of his concern as he rushes
19. down to the Winding Creek Postoffice, accompanied by his
20. friend Mary Halloway, the local schoolmarm. Here they are
21.

22. MARY: (BREATHLESSLY) Jerry Quick, if you don't stop walking so
23. fast. I'm going to part company with you right here and
24. nowThe idea.....
25.

But I thought you and Mr. Robbins had gone all over the
place before he left.

Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

THEME

ANNOUNCER:

MUSIC:

ANNOUNCER:

These days we hear a great deal about the menace of forest fires. There's plenty of reason for all this talk of forest fire danger because the prevention and control of fires in the woods and forests of America has directly on the business of America. We can't afford to have a single logging operation close down because of fire... we can't afford damage to old growth and second growth timber when vast amounts of commercial timber are so urgently required for war needs... we can't afford the smoke from forest fires as a guide and a screen for our planes... we just can't afford forest fires....

Now to the Pine Cone National Forest. Assistant Ranger Jerry Quirk seems to be having his difficulties in handling the Pine Cone District in the absence of Ranger Jim Robbins who's away on a special war-time assignment. Right now Jerry's showing some of his concern as he tramps down to the Winding Creek Postoffice, accompanied by his friend Mary Holloway, the local schoolmarm. Here they

... (BREATHLESSLY) Jerry Quirk, if you don't stop walking fast. I'm going to get company with you right here and now.... The idea....

MARY:

1. JERRY: Aw, Mary, be a sport, will yuh, There ought to be a
2. letter from Jim at the postoffice, see, and I got to get
3. it in a hurry 'cause my whole day's work depends on what
4. Jim's got to say about this problem I'm up against.

5. MARY: All right, but we don't have to walk so fast. I declare,
6. I drop in to see Mrs. Robbins and you rush me right out
7. of the Ranger Station to go galloping back to town. No
8. letter can be so important as all that.

9. JERRY: This one is to me, Mary. I'm up against a tough decision
10. and...

11. MARY: Yes, and you waited so long to ask Mr. Robbins about it
12. that now you're 'way behind on your work schedule. I
13. know.

14. JERRY: Aw, don't rub it in, Mary. And besides, I didn't intend
15. to inflict my troubles on you. I just wanted to be with
16. you, and have you walk along with me, that's all. I've
17. been so confounded busy trying to make things go that,
18. well, I've hardly seen you since Jim left.

19. MARY: Well, that's different, Jerry...What is your problem,
20. any way?

21. JERRY: It's those fire organization plans I've been working on.
22. Especially about that Eagle Rock area. You see, it's
23. normally a low hazard area, and I don't know whether we
24. ought to include it in the plans or concentrate on other
25. areas.

MARY: But I thought you and Mr. Robbins had gone all over the
plans before he left.

JERRY:

Aw, Mary, be a sport, will you. There ought to be a

MARY:

All right, but we don't have to walk so fast. I decide

JERRY:

This one is to me, Mary. I'm up against a tough decision

MARY:

Yes, and you waited so long to ask Mr. Robbins about it

JERRY:

Aw, don't rub it in, Mary. And besides, I didn't intend

MARY:

Well, that's different, Jerry... What is your problem,

MARY:

But I thought you and Mr. Robbins had gone all over the

plans before he left.

1. JERRY: We did. But I forgot to make a note of what's to be done with
2. Eagle Rock area, see? I know Jim discussed it with me but I
3. don't remember what he wanted done there. I know what I'd
4. do, but I don't want to turn the plans into the Supervisor
5. without some consideration of what Jim wanted done at Eagle
6. Rock.

7. MARY: You ought to have been more careful about making notes....

8. JERRY: Yeah, I know, but I can't help that now. I wrote Jim,
9. special delivery, about it. I've got to get those fire
10. plans in the mail to-day. If Jim hasn't written, I'm sunk...

11. MARY: Well, here's the postoffice. I'll keep my fingers crossed,
12. Jerry.

13. JERRY: Thanks, Mary. C'mon in with me...(FOOTSTEPS UP STEPS, ON
14. WOODEN FLOOR, OUT)

15. MARY: There's a letter in the Forest Service box, Jerry...

16. JERRY: Yeah, I see...Wait'll I get this doggonned box open now...
17. (CLICKS) Yep. Here it is...Good old Jim...

18. MARY: Let's go outside in the sun, Jerry. We can sit on the bench
19. out there while you read your letter.

20. JERRY: All right, Mary..(FOOTSTEPS) Say, I just thought of something
21. What if Jim didn't get my letter?

22. MARY: Silly. Don't worry about that 'til you read his letter....
23. Let's sit here, Jerry, and rest a minute while you read it.

24. JERRY: & Yeah, you can rest and relax all right. I'm the bird that'll
25. get jumped on if I don't get those fire plans, in, or if I
handle 'em wrong.

We did. But I forgot to make a note of what's to be done at Eagle Rock area, see? I know Jim discussed it with me but don't remember what he wanted done there. I know what I'd do, but I don't want to turn the plans into the supervisor without some consideration of what Jim wanted done at Eagle Rock.

You ought to have been more careful about making notes... Yeah, I know, but I can't help that now. I wrote Jim special delivery, about it. I've got to get those five plans in the mail to-day. If Jim hasn't written, I'm sure. Well, here's the postoffice. I'll keep my fingers crossed, Jerry.

Thanks, Mary. G'mon in with me... (FOOTSTEPS UP STEPS, ON WOODEN FLOOR, OUT)

There's a letter in the Forest Service box, Jerry... Yeah, I see... Wait'll I get this doggonned box open now... (CLICKS) Yeah. Here it is... Good old Jim...

Let's go outside in the sun, Jerry. We can sit on the bench out there while you read your letter.

All right, Mary... (FOOTSTEPS) Say, I just thought of something. What if Jim didn't get my letter?

Silly. Don't worry about that 'til you read his letter... Let's sit here, Jerry, and rest a minute while you read.

Yeah, you can rest and relax all right. I'm the bird that get jumped on if I don't get those five plans in, or if I handle 'em wrong.

JERRY:

MARY:

JERRY:

MARY:

JERRY:

MARY:

JERRY:

MARY:

JERRY:

MARY:

JERRY:

1. MARY: Why don't you open the letter?
2. JERRY: That's what I'm doin'. (TEARS PAPER) Let's see now...
3. He says: (RE DING) Dear Jerry. This past week I've spent
4. some mighty exciting and interesting days, I can tell you,
5. checking up on things in and around the Green Mountain
6. National Forest in Vermont and the White Mountain National
7. Forest in New Hampshire and Maine. Folks around here sure
8. know we're at war and Mister, they're doing something about
9. it. And I don't mean just tapping the maple trees to help
10. out on the sugar situation, either. Incidentally, I'd like
11. to have seen more of that but I got here at the tail-end of
12. the sugaring operations. (STRAIGHT) Shuck's nothing about the
13. Eagle Rock problem yet.
14. MARY: Maybe Jim's just teasing you, Jerry. He'll probably not
15. say anything about it 'til the end of the letter. Why don't
16. you just calm down and read it on through?
17. JERRY: Okay. He'll probably bawl me out good when he does get to
18. MARY: Well, read on and see.
19. JERRY: All right. He says: (READING) Lumbering operations are boom
20. I've seen a lot of logging, some good, some pretty bad.
21. Some of the land is taking a foolish unnecessary beating.
22. (STRAIGHT) That's Jim. I'll bet he's busy as a bee helping
23. owners around there with good forest practice. It's
24. 'specially important these days.
25. MARY: What else does he say, Jerry?

Why don't you open the letter?

That's what I'm doing. (TEARS FALLING) Let's see now...

He says (HE SINGS) Dear Jerry, the past week I've spent

some really exciting and interesting days, I can tell you.

Looking up on things in and around the Green Mountains.

National Forest in Vermont and the White Mountain National

Forest in New Hampshire and Maine. Well, around here we

know we're at war and Mister, they're doing something and

12. And I don't mean just tapping the maple trees to get

out on the sugar market, either. Incidentally, I'm

in here when you're at work but I don't have at the time

the necessary equipment. (TEARS FALLING) Please, Jerry,

Jerry: Please, Jerry:

Well, Jerry, I'm just kidding you, Jerry. He'll probably not

say anything about it 'till the end of the letter. Why don't

you just calm down and read it on through?

Oh, Jerry. He'll probably bowl me out good when he does get to

well, read on and see.

All right. He says (HE SINGS) Lumbering operations are

I've seen a lot of logging, some good, some pretty bad.

Some of the land is being a foolish unnecessary logging.

(TEARS FALLING) That's all. I'll bet he's busy as a bee

around there with good forest practice. It's

especially important these days.

What else does he say, Jerry?

JERRY:

Well, he goes on: (READING) I'm going to tell you a bit about the forest products that are getting such a big play here in New England, Jerry. Good quality oak lumber, what there is of it, is high in the market. For wooden vessels and special uses, you know. They're using spruce, the big stuff, for piling, and white ash is going into snowshoes, for our soldier lads for winter training.

MARY:

Jerry, could you give me that letter to read to my school children when you're finished with it? They'd be very much interested.

JERRY:

Sure. He says here that (READING) The pulpwood business is going strong but so are the saw-log operations. In Maine especially, I've seen a lot of spruce, pine, fir and hemlock ready to go down to the mills in spring drives. In the National Forests, I was surprised to see how much special wood products are being supplied. Hard and softwoods alike, for wooden heels, and apple boxes and the like, and for a lot of specialty items. they used to make out of metal. (STRAIGHT) Shucks, I guess Mr. Robbins didn't get my letter. Not a word about....

MARY:

Go ahead and read some more.

... (1917) ... to tell ...
about the forest products that are being used ...
here in New England, Canada. Good quality ...
there is of it, is high in the market. For wood ...
and special uses, you know. They're using spruce ...
ash, for plating, and white ash is being used ...
for our building ...

... could you ...
... when you're finished with it. They'd be ...

... He says ...
is being strong ...
especially, I've seen a lot of spruce, pine, fir and ...
... to go down to the mill in spring ...

... I was surprised to see how much ...
products are being supplied. Hard and softwoods ...
... and apple boxes and the like, and ...
... to make out of material ...
... I guess ... my ...

... and ...

JERRY: Okay (READING) I've seen some real examples of what they call Yankee ingenuity on this trip, Jerry. Repairing old trucks and tractors to keep 'em running, and getting out the scrap, and conserving rubber. Horses are coming back on the job in several places to get out the wood for war...I've had a lot of things to check on with other Rangers, on this special war-time assignment of mine, Jerry. Not only are we closely knit into the aircraft warning system, with men on the the fire towers in some places day and night, cooperating with the Army Interceptor command, but no stone is being left unturned to afford this region the best possible protection against forest fires, from any cause.

MARY: I guess there's a lot Mr. Robbins can't tell about, even in a letter to you....

JERRY: Yeah, I guess so...Well, he goes on to say that (READING) Everybody's helping out in fire control. The State forestry organizations, the counties and towns, the various industries many, many private individuals. But here's a little story I want to tell you. The other day I was out with one of our young Forest Rangers. Riding with him, in his pick-up, on a job he wasn't (FADE) too keen about...

PAUSE:

FADE IN MOTOR

JAKE: You're a Ranger yourself, Jim. What would you do in a case like that?

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the smell of the sea. It was a salty, fresh scent that I had never experienced before. The sun was shining brightly, and the waves were crashing against the shore. I felt a sense of peace and tranquility that I had never felt before. I had heard that the beach was beautiful, but I didn't realize how much I would love it. The sand was soft and warm, and the water was clear and blue. I had heard that the beach was beautiful, but I didn't realize how much I would love it. The sand was soft and warm, and the water was clear and blue. I had heard that the beach was beautiful, but I didn't realize how much I would love it. The sand was soft and warm, and the water was clear and blue.

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1. JIM: I reckon I'd go ahead and follow the Supervisor's
2. instructions, Jake. Be glad you've got the equipment and tools
3. to put up there on Yellow Mountain.

4. JAKE: But that's just the point, Jim. I should think it'd be better
5. to use the tools we've got here in the back of this truck to
6. supplement the equipment some place else on the district. Why
7. shucks, we haven't had a fire in the Yellow Mountain area
8. for years.

9. JIM: Well, Jake, I reckon I'm old enough to be your father but they
10. don't give me the right to tell you what to do, I figure.

11. JAKE: Yeah, I suppose so. A ranger's got to run his district,
12. himself. But in this case, seems to me, I'm doin' something
13. under orders I wouldn't normally do if it was up to me....I'll
14. bet, before the year's up we'll be prayin' for these tools
15. somewhere else. And they'll be sittin' way up here on Yellow
16. Mountain.

17. JIM: As I understand it, Jake, what you're doin' here is setting
18. up tool and equipment storage points all over the Forest.
19. as part of the complete fire control system, to meet any
20. emergency. That's it, ain't it?

21. JAKE: Yeah, that's right. But there ain't likely to be any
22. emergency up here on Yellow Mountain. It's not a bad fire
23. country. Never has been.

24.
25.

I reckon I'd go ahead and follow the Supervisor's

instructions, John. He said you'd get the equipment

to put up there on Yellow Mountain.

Not that I trust the point, Jim. I should think it'd be

to use the tools we've got here in the back of this house

supplies the equipment some place else on the district.

Maybe we haven't had a fire in the Yellow Mountain area

for years.

Well, John, I reckon I'm old enough to be your father

don't give me the right to tell you what to do, I suppose

then, I suppose you'd better get to run his district

himself. But in this case, seems to me, I'm doing something

under orders I wouldn't normally do if it was up to me.

Oh, before the year's up we'll be paying for these tools

somehow else. And they'll be sitting way up here on Yellow

Mountain.

As I understand it, John, what you're doing here is setting

up tool and equipment storage points all over the forest.

as part of the complete fire control system, to meet any

emergency. That's it, ain't it?

Well, that's right. But there ain't likely to be any

emergency up here on Yellow Mountain. It's not a bad fire

country. Never has been.

JIM: It's been my experience, Jake, that any country that's got grass or trees on it, is fire country. Some worse than others, maybe, but still where there's grass or leaves, or trees, there's chance for fire. And these days, well, I reckon we can't afford to be too careful...Now, that you got me talking, let me say this. And then you can do what you want to about leavin' tools at Yellow Mountain.

JAKE: What is it?

JIM: If we Americans don't go out of our way to take more care about forest fires than we've usually taken in the past we're apt to be fighting fires where we least expect 'em. We just can't afford to have any sneak attacks in these forests.

JAKE: Yeah, but Jim, there isn't much chance of the enemy dropping bombs way up here. Our army and navy and air force'll see to that.

JIM: I hope that's right, Jake. But we got some enemies right here within our borders, don't forget that. Carelessness, thoughtlessness, ignorance...they can do as much harm, some times, as incendiary bombs.

JAKE: O.K., O.K. We stop here. (MOTOR OUT - DOORS OPEN AND CLOSE)
You win, Jim. We leave the tools.

JIM: All right. I'll give you a hand with 'em.

SUDDEN CHATTER OF MACHINE GUN FROM OFF

JAKE: Hey! Did you hear that, Jim?

GUN FIRE:

1. JIM: Yeah, sounded like gun fire. A machine gun.

2. JAKE: Say, you think...? Oh, no, it couldn't be any....

3. JIM: I don't know what it could or couldn't be, Jake. But I do
4. know that that's smoke I see coming up over there. Here
5. grab a fire rake.

6. JAKE: You're right. C'mon, this way!

7. RUNNING FEET:

8. JAKE: (BREATHLESS) Just a little way more, Jim and we'll be able
9. to look down into the place where that smoke is comin' from.

10. JIM: (BREATHLESS) I'm right behind you...That gun doesn't bother
11. you huh, Jake?

12. JAKE: I'm not worryin' about any guns. It's that fire I'm thinking
13. about. Here...(RUNNING FEET OUT) We can see down in the
14. draw from here...Well, I'll be hornawoggled. Wait a minute,
15. Jim, 'fore we go down.

16. JIM? What in the world do you make of that? Those two fellers
17. down there in their undershirts and shorts dancing in and out
18. of the fire.

19. JAKE? (LAUGHS) Golly, I almost forgot, Jim. Those are two of our
20. soldiers. Yep, I gave the commander of the army post down
21. the line permission to use the bare bank in that bottom for
22. machine gun practice, and testing ammunition....see?

23. JIM: Yeah, I see. The boys must've been usin' tracer bullets and
24. some of 'em ricocheted and started the fire. But I don't get
25. the idea of them fighting fire practically naked.

...A machine gun.

...I don't know what it could or couldn't be, Jake. But I don't

know that that's what I was looking for over there. I was

grab a line rope.

You're right. I was. This way.

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know that that's what I was looking for over there. I was

grab a line rope.

JAKE: (LAUGHING) Look, Jim. Don't you see? They're using their own clothes...beating the fire out with their fatigue clothes see? They didn't have any tools so they pulled off their shirts and pants instead. And, boy, they didn't waste any time, did they? That fire's about out already.

JIM: (LAUGHS) There's smart work for you. I reckon our enemies better watch out for American soldiers who use a brand of ingenuity (FADE) like that.....

PAUSE:

JERRY: (FADE IN READING) It was kinda funny at that, Jerry, but Jake was sure put out. His Yellow Mountain country had its first fire in years...And it could've been a lot worst than it was. Well, I'll write youaall from somewhere in the Lake States next week. Remember, Jerry, Our forests are the envy of the enemy. Let's keep 'em Green. Sincerely, Jim... (STRAIGHT) Our forests are the envy of the enemy. Let's keep 'em green...Well...that's all of Jim's letter...Say! doggone it! I almost forgot. I guess he didn't get my letter afte all. He didn't say a word about our Eagle Rock area, did he?

MARY: No...but...Why Jerry! That story about Yellow Mountain!....

JERRY: Say, by George! That's it! He did answer my question after all. In his own way.

MARY: Of course he did, Jerry, Can't you see? That incident he wrote about.....

(LAUGHING) Look, Jim. Don't you see? They're using their own clothes... beating the fire out with their fatigue clothes. They didn't have any tools so they pulled off their shirts and pants instead. And, boy, they didn't waste any time, did they? That fire's about out already.

(LAUGH) There's smart work for you. I reckon our enemies better watch out for American soldiers who use a brand of ingenuity (FADE) like that.....

(FADE IN READING) It was kinda funny at that, Jerry, but Jake was sure put out. His Yellow Mountain country had its first fire in years... And it could've been a lot worse than it was. Well, I'll write you all from somewhere in the States next week. Remember, Jerry, our forests are the envy of the enemy. Let's keep 'em green. Sincerely, Jim... (STRAIGHT) Our forests are the envy of the enemy. Let's keep 'em green... Well... that's all of Jim's letter... Say!

George! I almost forgot. I guess he didn't get my letter side all. He didn't say a word about our Eagle Rock area, did he?

No... but... Why Jerry! That story about Yellow Mountain!... Say, by George! That's it! He did answer my question after all. In his own way.

Of course he did, Jerry. Can't you see? That incident he wrote about.....

JAKE:

JIM:

PAUSE:

JERRY:

HARRY:

JERRY:

HARRY:

JERRY: Yes sir! Everything Jim said applies to our Eagle Rock area here too. This Ranger, Jake, might just as well be Jerry Quick here on the Pine Cone. Y'see, Mary, I was all for not bothering about the low hazard areas, just like Jake was.

MARY: (LAUGHS) And now I guess you know what Mr. Robbins thinks about it.

JERRY: Yeah. I sure do...The thing I can't figure out, though, is did Jim really have that experience he wrote about, with the soldiers fightin' fire with their pants and all, or did he make it all up out of whole-cloth just for my benefit?

MUSIC: FINALE

ANNOUNCER: And so it's westward to the Lake States for Ranger Jim Robbins where we'll expect to hear from him next week. Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday during the Farm and Home Hour, with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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JERRY: Yes sir! Everything Jim said applies to our Eagle Rock area here too. This Ranger, Jake, might just as well be Jerry Gulch here on the Pine Cone. Y'see, Mary, I was all for not bothering about the low hazard areas, just like Jake was.

MARY: (LAUGHS) And now I guess you know what Mr. Robbins thinks about it.

JERRY: Yeah. I sure do... The thing I can't figure out, though, is did Jim really have that experience he wrote about, with the soldiers fightin' fire with their pants and all, or did he make it all up out of whole-cloth just for my benefit?

MUSIC: FINALE

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